(c) whether there is any proposal to open ESI Divisional Office at Kollam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The medical and other staff, as per ESI norms and standards, have been sanctioned. The sanction/procurement of modern equipment to develop this hospital is under-way.

(b) The Central Public Works Department, Trivandrum has informed that the construction of projects is likely to commence within five months and the project is likely to be completed within a period of two years thereafter.

(c) and (d) The proposal to open ESI Divisional Office at Kollam is under consideration but no decision has been taken.

Freed child labourers

3100. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded children freed from their incarceration during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the freed children are back into bondage no sooner than they are released;

(c) if so, the number of such cases and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the prevailing laws in this regard are inadequate to guarantee the rights of a child freed from bondage; and

(e) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to strengthen the laws to ensure that the rescued children are adequately provided for and trained until they reach adulthood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not make any discrimination amongst child bondage and adult bondage. No separate data on child bondage is maintained. However, the number of bonded labourers including child bonded labourers identified and released by the State Governments during the last three years are given below :-

Year	No. of bonded labourers including bonded child labourers released from bondage
2000-2001	5256
2001-2002	3929
2002-2003	2198

(b) and (c) No instances relating to bonded labourers including child bonded labourers falling back into bondage after their release, have been reported.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Adequate rehabilitation packages are provided to released bonded labourers including child bonded labourers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and other poverty alleviation programme being implemented in States. In addition, two Schemes exclusively for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely, the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations, have been launched. Under the Scheme of NCLPs, 100 National Child Labour Projects have been started in 13 child labour endemic States to provide formal/non-formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health care etc. for the children withdrawn from work.

Condition of bonded labourers

3101. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of bonded labourers in the country has gone from bad to worse, if so, the steps proposed to tackle this problem;

(b) the States where this problem exist;

(c) whether the States are not following the National Human Rights Commission's directives; and

(d) the steps being taken for compliance of NHRC's directives in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law through the country *w.e.f.* 24-10-1975 under